JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE
日本町の経済発展・計画・保存
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING & PRESERVATION OF JAPANTOWN

JAPANTOWN TASK FORCE BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016
UNION BANK COMMUNITY ROOM

ATTENDEES: Anthony Brown, Judy Hamaguchi, David Ishida, Mark Moriguchi, Benh Nakajo, Glynis Nakahara, Jon Osaki, Beau Simon, Neal Taniguchi, Clint Taura, Rosalyn Tonai

ABSENT: Paul Wermer, Alice Kawahatsu, Seiko Fujimoto

STAFF: Greg Marutani, Kimi Fukuyama

GUESTS: Greg Villoria, Tomo Hirai, Bob Rusky, Karen Kai

I. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Alice Kawahatsu and Paul Wermer, the meeting was called to order at 6:09 p.m. by Rosalyn Tonai, Secretary

It was moved by David Ishida and seconded by Anthony Brown to accept the agenda with the addition of the Invest In Neighborhoods (IIN) 2½-minute video on Japantown and correcting the agenda announcement of the next board meeting to November 16, 2016.

The motion was passed.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2016.

It was moved by David Ishida and seconded by Anthony Brown to accept the September 21, 2016 draft minutes as amended acknowledging Richard Hashimoto as being present at the meeting and regarding the request by David Ishida be "requested the Executive Committee review the JTF bylaws.

The motion passed.

III. GUEST SPEAKER

No guest speaker

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Land Use / Transportation Committee

1. Geary BRT Update

In Paul Wermer's absence, Bob Rusky reported that the SF County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) staff recommended the Laguna stop be only a local stop. The draft report will be published in early November at its meeting and will take a year to review.

It was moved by David Ishida and seconded by Benh Nakajo that a letter be sent to the SF County Transportation Authority (SFMTA) that JTF does not support their staff recommendation of keeping the Laguna stop only as a Local one and request it be designated as both a Local and Rapid Stop and request an explanation as to why the funds that would be saved by not demolishing the Webster Street Bridge cannot

be used to make repairs on the bridge structure as well as for streetscape improvement; and that the letter be shared with organizations in Japantown urging them to send a letter to SFMTA requesting the Laguna stop be both a Local and Rapid stop.

The motion passed.

2. City-Wide Design Guidelines
   Glynis Nakahara reported she is still working on setting up a time for planning department to discuss existing draft.

B. Economic Development / Marketing Committee (Kimi Fukuyama)

1. Video
   Japantown was featured by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) Invest In Neighborhoods in SF campaign. The campaign has helped Japantown to continue showcase history and tradition.

   Greg highlighted that a letter will be sent to Diane Ponce De Leon to thank her for including Japantown in the project. Also, the video is planned to be shown at the JTF Visitor Center located at the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) Alice urged that closed caption be added so the video could be read.

   Greg Villoria suggested the video be uploaded on to YouTube and use the subtitles tab

   David Ishida suggested that JTF should be pay the subtitles be added and showcase the video.

2. Holiday Lights
   Both proposals from Max (Kabuki Hotel) and Mike from Holiday Lights were passed out. David Ishida's concern is that there is no committee to oversee the Holiday lights project. Also, his concern whether was ample outreach to Japantown merchants that could get involved. He suggested to do outreach and ask for suggestions and show how the lights would look like.

   Neal Taniguchi agreed about lights should have a community outreach

   Richard Hashimoto says the Japan Center Garage at their board meeting will be asked to contribute toward the holiday lights.

   Greg reported that if no decision is made by November it will be too late for a contractor to work. ~~–~~He cautioned that putting a motion before commitments are secured would pose a risk for JTF to make up the difference ~~but the~~

   Jon Osaki and Glynis Nakahara raised concerns about the time and effort for present staff to take on given their current workload

   Greg Villoria highlighted how much was donated last year. He cited that last year Kabuki Hotel, Garage & JMA, Mary Ishisaki. make donations totaling a couple of

thousand of dollars. The were a lot of people who donated to last year's holiday lights. The rest of the money was donated online.

Amount left over in the JTF account will looked into.

JTF has agreed to support the Merchants Association for the Holiday Lights Project in Japantown. No motion for action was made on the Holiday Lighting project.

C. Cultural Heritage

1. Landmarking – Rec. And Park Request Update
   Rosalyn Tonai reported that Susan Parks attended the Cultural Heritage Committee, is with the SF Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and reported that HPC received a grant from the National Park Service (NPS) to focus on under-represented communities for possible landmarking designation. The HPC is currently looking at the YWCA-Buchanan Branch (1830 Sutter Street), Kinmon Gakuen (2031 Bush Street), the Japanese American Citizens League Headquarters (1765 Sutter Street) and St. Francis Square are among the potential sites.

2. Landmarking Issei Women's Building (NLF)
   Karen Kai stated that the NPS funding would be working on the landmark project. She added that the name would be the Issei Women's building to set apart from Julia Morgan building as Ms. Morgan designed several in the City.

D. CBD Steering Committee
   Greg reported that CBD Steering Committee received two proposals to review. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet next Wednesday, October 25 at JACL building. And will be making a decision on which proposal would be selected.

E. Finance Committee (Mark Moriguchi)

1. MOED Grant Applications
   The first of three amendments has approved for JTF. It is for the work in the formation of a CBD in Japantown. This amendment would provide funding through December 31, 2016. The JTF is awaiting a second amendment that would carry the CBD formation project through December 31, 2017.

   The third amendment would provide funding for the JTF staff and activities through June 30, 2017.

2. SF Japantown Foundation Grant Received
   The Japantown Foundation awarded the JTF $10,000 as requested by JTF for general operation. Once the new budget is confirmed will be presented to the finance committee.

F. Executive Committee
   JTF by-laws:
   Paul Wermer sent a draft which was already on the agenda from December 2014 minutes. JTF will send out a draft for a review regarding what issues needs to be evaluated. David commented about looking for leadership from the executive committee. In addition, for the committee to make recommendations.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Holiday Board Dinner December 12th or 14th at Japantown Terrace
In an informal poll, the majority of the Board members present preferred having the Holiday Board Dinner on December 14, 2016.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

VII. STAFF REPORTS

A. Crime Report (Greg Marutani)
Greg highlighted that crime is going up because more of the merchants, especially in the East and West Malls are now calling the police department and filing reports and receiving case numbers on the crimes. This can be attributed to the addition of a foot patrol from the SF Police Department that is focused in Japantown.

B. Japantown Observations
Greg asked the Board whether the Japantown Observations and/or the crime reports are of value as he was considering discontinuing them because of the staff workload.at this time. The Board expressed the value of both reports.

VIII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Please refer to the advanced material.

Judy Hamaguchi commented on the JTF Letter of Support for the Issei Memorial Garden in Cottage Row. She appreciated the tone and language of the letter adding it reflected the board's position.

Judy also mentioned the Comfort Women project. Selection committee selection is made for the 15th. Meeting will be held in the whole committee on November 14th. Q and A session.

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at the Union Bank Hospitality Room.

The meeting adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalyn Tonai
Secretary